

# THE LEMON GROVE REVIEW



Vol. 50, No. 101

Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

## IN THIS ISSUE

50TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATIVE  
ISSUE #1

Thursday, August 6, 1998 25¢

## The Lemon Grove Review: The First 50 Years

Lemon Grove Review

### One Year, Three Publishers

by Steven Saint

On Sept. 2, 1948, Brent Payne published the first edition of the *Lemon Grove Review*. It was an eight-page broadsheet with six columns of dense type, relieved by a large architect's rendering of the proposed Lemon Grove Congregational Church building and a photo of the church's pastor, Dan Apra.

Subscriptions were \$1.50 a year.

Payne was a newcomer to Lemon Grove, with 25 years in the newspaper business in Kansas City, Boston and, most recently, Lake County, Calif. He announced the establishment of "a modern printing plant" at 7812 Broadway, the current site of Top Hat Catering.

His mission was to nurture and ride the suburban boom quickly approaching the "Greater Lemon Grove retail area," namely the "Homeland Township" of Lemon Grove, Jamul, Dulzura, Potrero, Jamacha, Spring Valley, American Homes, Vista La Mesa and Monterey Heights.

Payne's *Review* covered the essentials of community news: school board meetings, wedding and death notices, who was on vacation, who was visiting from out of town. Letters to the editor were signed "Indignant" or "M." and none of the stories carried by-lines.

There were few pictures, more clip-art drawings. Payne's first advertisers included Piggy Wiggly Market, Lemon Grove Radio and Appliance, Grove Pastry, Lindley's Rexall Drugs and the Grove Theater. Ads and classified ads often ran on the front page.

Payne launched a column in December, 1948, entitled "Pertinent Paragraphs." This "items-type" column usually appeared on the front page, filled with Payne's around-town observations and gossip.

Although his subscription list seems to have grown steadily, the paper was getting mixed reviews. One anonymous resident sent Payne a scalding letter: "It's not much of a paper, but you've got me in the position of a guy in a burlesque show — you know the darn thing's indecent, but you keep waiting



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## Once there were lemons...

Fay Fisher Dalton

My parents, Alice and Bill Fisher, came to live in Lemon Grove in 1911, after a honeymoon on Catalina Island. Both were born in Massachusetts in 1883 and he was the first Fisher to settle more than 50 miles from Boston in almost 275 years.

My father chose between apple growing in Oregon and citrus ranching in Southern California. He kept books on a 20-acre citrus ranch. They had great losses in 1913, the year of the Big Freeze.

Once a visiting Easterner asked him, "What kind of income do you get from a lemon ranch?" Dad answered, "You have to have an income to live on one."

Visiting relatives and friends were always thrilled to be able to pick an orange from a tree. We had Navel, Valencias and one Mediterranean Sweet, but Dad often mischievously led them through the orchard telling them to choose any tree. He would pause near one with bright orange fruit, which they usually chose. That tree was unbudded (or wild) and the fruit was bitterly sour!

Lemon Grove life revolved around Sonka Brothers General Store. It was the only store there and it had everything. There were canned goods, groceries, fresh fruits and vegetables, and meat.

On the right wall as you entered were dry goods, with a long low counter where rolls of cloth were measured and cut. In front on the left was a glass case filled with big jars of candy. Beyond it was a long low counter with canned goods

behind it. The clerks stood behind the counter and wrote down our order, then scurried around gathering everything together, piling it on the counter.

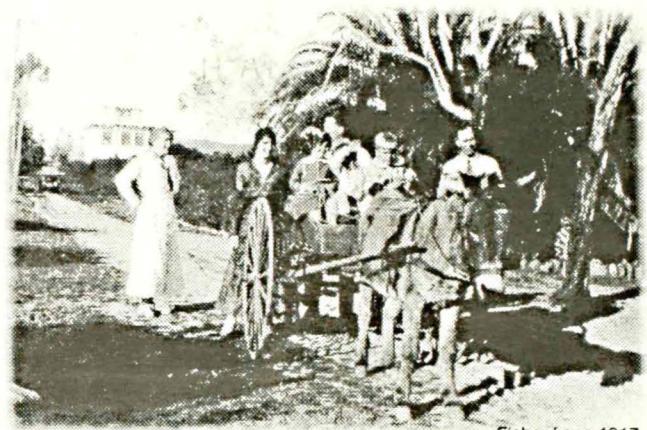
Our house was at the west end of Madison Avenue, parallel to Central Avenue, one block south. Fisher Lane was a narrow, bumpy alley from Central to our house.

A driveway circled around to join Madison to Fisher Lane.

The house was a comfortable, rambling ranch house in the center of the 20-acre citrus ranch. It had belonged to a British remittance man. Around the house

Central Avenue. It was gray granite and had a belfry with a large bell. Grammar school was downstairs in two rooms, three or more grades to a room.

Upstairs was for the older kids. I was happy in the first grade to



Fisher Lane, 1917

there were many exotic plants, such as a Moreton Bay Fig with strange, spreading roots and hard, little round figs. There was an Australian Flame tree that bloomed in the fall, which was its spring. The blossoms were small red cups, just right for hats for fingers or flower dolls.

There were very few houses around us when I was growing up. There was the Eckles' two-story house on the southeast corner of Fisher Lane and Central. The Puckett's had a two-story house on the southwest corner of Central and Corona.

When World War I came along everyone was very patriotic. With white hand towels around our heads, fastened at the back of the neck, and with a red cross of paper or cloth in front, we children played "Red Cross nurse". My father enlisted and got as far as Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Mother ran the ranch in his absence. Then the war ended. We always said the Germans got scared when they heard Dad was coming and quit.

In the spring, we would roam the fields gathering wild flowers: shooting stars, wild hyacinth (brodea), Indian paint brush, owl's clover, blue-eyed-grass, lupin, mariposa lilies, and the tiny fragrant yellow violets. Often some people would drive to the back country and cut a tall stalk of yucca or Spanish bayonet, which they would bring home on the fender of the car. Around Christmas time California holly (toyon) was gathered along the road between Encanto and San Diego. It is now illegal to pick any of these flowers and berries.

My sister and I attended the Lemon Grove School. It was on the northwest corner of Main and

be in the same room as my older sister, a third-grader. When the bell rang at 9 a.m., we all lined up at the door according to grade, said the Pledge of Allegiance and marched in. Outside were all sizes of metal rings hung on chains to swing on.

Some of the sounds that I associate with a happy childhood are the singing of coyotes in the night, the coos of mourning doves at dawn, the chattering of the friendly little house finches, the call of the quails and especially the meadowlark's call.

I also still love the sound of frogs on a spring night and the squeaky call of the little tree toads who, we thought, were saying, "It's going to rain." I also remember the call very early on Sunday morning of "Sunday morning Union paper!" as the newsboy went along Central Avenue.

The Fisher family moved to the Hillcrest area in about 1921, but kept the Lemon Grove ranch. Both Bill and Alice Fisher became involved in many San Diego activities. He was a member of San Diego Rowing club, where he coached for 10 years and also served as president.

His numerous civic activities included representing the city of San Diego on the County Water Authority board of directors, representing the authority on the board of the Metropolitan Water District.

My mother was also a civic leader. She was one of the founders of San Diego Girl Scouts in 1916, served on the board for 10 years and was their first commissioner (president).

Carrying on the New England tradition of vacationing at a resort, it was customary for the family to spend Easter week in

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# Lemon Twist

by Cheryl Cohen

sigh ... another opportunity lost. A little over a year ago, I met with a buncha Lemon Grove men – of the cloth, that is (in contrast to the men without clothes, with whom I was pictured in this column a couple weeks ago). Well, unlike my meeting with the nude dudes, I neglected to ask God's Gang to pose with me. The result? If you read last week's Letter to the Editor, you know they were ... well ... jealous.

Wanting desperately to redeem myself, I tried to locate them during their monthly muster. I wanted to demonstrate, much like Pastor Myron's suggestion, that indeed, yes, I would like to have had my picture taken with their shirtless selves (they could leave the collars on, for effect, of course). If only I'd thought of it a year ago – but then, Pastor Myron does have the advantage of all that *divine* inspiration. I tried to go with Alternate Plan B, posing with shirtless writers of Forum Publications, but there were a couple of problems: one, I don't want to see them with their shirts off, and two, we can't even get together in one place for an evening of free theater, let alone to assuage my anxiety over missing the gaggle of Godly Guys. So, instead, I give you Plan C: a picture of me, my chins and the only male available with a collar who would humor me. (He knows who controls the food dish around here.)

If you were planning to attend the Lemon Grove Hysterical Society's annual potluck picnic on Aug. 9, please hide the pot, lie low and wait for our signal – the event's been postponed. Stay tuned right here, and we'll letchoo know when it's to be rescheduled. Call 463-9193 for more information.

First, she's in, then she's out. Then, she's in, now she's out. Want to watch paint dry, or observe the effectiveness of Lemon Grove's Chamber of Commerce without Mary "Boom-Boom" England as their executive director? She's just resigned, in order to be able to focus more on her own business, Superior Marketing Concepts. She's got a couple weeks left to go with the chamber – but after that, look for her touch at political fundraisers, various volunteer efforts around the county, including El Limon Grande, and anywhere you see the word "community" used more than 40 times per promotion.

Speaking of the chamber, here's something for those of you who enjoy seeing a lot of well-seasoned seniors aggravate their rotator cups while handily handling one-arm bandits: a bus trip to Laughlin! That's right, \$20 per person'll getcha two buffets, gaming books, danish pastries and two (count them) two free beverages on the bus! Now, that's livin'! You'll leave on a luxury motor coach at 7 a.m. on Aug. 15, and return 8:30 a.m. the next day. Anyone desiring tickets or more information should call **Jim Butcher** at 469-9957. A free day's supply of Depends Undergarments goes to the 500th caller!

Now that they've begun Community Asset Mapping Exercises at the Lemon Grove Project, everyone over there should be in buffed-out condition. If you wanna get in shape, too, you may have to do your warm-up routine in your sleep, because they hold their next meeting at 7:30 a.m., Sept. 3, in the Community Center. Compare tans with President **Chuck Pennell** while he tells you all about the upcoming Town Hall Meeting. For more information, call 465-5864.

Send your events calendars, collars, exercise mats and maps to The Review or directly to me at 264-3153 (msg.), 264-4180 (fax), or E-mail me at [cirious@cts.com](mailto:cirious@cts.com). We're so hard-up for news this summer, we'll take just about anything!

## Lemon Grove Fire Log

### July 21, 1998

1600 blk. La Corte St. Difficulty breathing.  
7700 blk. Palm St. Person down.  
2500 blk. Mulder St. Difficulty breathing.  
7500 blk. Pacific Ave. Medical aid.  
3700 blk. Grove St. Fall.  
3200 blk. College Pl. High fever.  
EB 18/NB Hwy 67. Vehicle fire/free way.  
8100 blk. Broadway Ave. High blood pressure.  
7900 blk. Palm St. Ringing alarms commercial.

### July 22, 1998

3700 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Difficulty breathing.  
2300 blk. McKnight Dr. Possible heart.  
8800 blk. Valencia St. Difficulty breathing.  
8100 blk. Broadway Ave. Difficulty breathing.  
8000 blk. Palm St. Fall.  
6800 blk. San Miguel Ave. Seizure.

### July 23, 1998

2100 blk. El Prado Ave. Possible heart.  
2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Fall.  
7900 blk. Broadway Ave. Fall.  
7800 blk. Sanford Dr. Vegetation fire.  
8300 blk. Palm St. Fall.  
3200 blk. College Pl. Medical aid.  
3200 blk. College Pl. Abdominal pains.

## WEATHER

The following information was provided by the National Weather Service.

	High	Low
July	27	92
July	28	87
July	29	80
July	30	79
July	31	83
August	1	88
August	2	91
		63

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### Submissions

Letters, editorial and photo submissions are welcome, but will not be returned to sender unless accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Material can be sent via e-mail at the following address: [sdgreens@igc.apc.org](mailto:sdgreens@igc.apc.org)

All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

### Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

## Proud Member

Lemon Grove  
Chamber  
of Commerce



## B Words

by Bob Burns

### Here's to 50 years

Going back 50 years is about three years before we came to Lemon Grove. With respect to the newspaper, the *Lemon Grove Review*, it was owned at that time by a Ray Graham. He sold to Max Goodwin who was the publisher, editor, sportswriter, columnist and, I guess, just about everything else that went in to the paper.

I recall that he used to deliver the papers with a little Crosley car that looked like it belonged in Disneyland's Autopia. His "Dimmer View" column did more to influence my knowledge, and love, of our new home town, than any other single thing. Max introduced me to the Kiwanis Club, which I have been a member of for some 45 years now.

In those days, Max was the consummate sports fan, and attended every event in the greater San Diego area. A great friend of Al Coupe and John Wirges, his press pass was probably the most used in San Diego sports history. Some said the only reason he had for putting out the paper was so that he could attend sporting events...A staunch member of Sigma Delta Chi, the professional fraternity, he won many awards with the little weekly publication. He also was a favorite MC at the "Golden Jock" awards banquet held each year for the local sports screwups. I happily attended a number of them, and they were great.

*The Review* (Max Goodwin) was not afraid to take on some big names in his investigative reporting. Supervisors, water magnates, politicians and officials of neighboring towns, all came under his gun. He also was an avid flyer, having ferried bombers to the European theater during WWII. He had a partnership with the local Ford dealer, Jim Spears in a small Cessna plane. He once took me to lunch in Palm Springs via his airplane...It was a thrill. Some time later, on a similar trip with a local school principal, he pancaked it atop a small mountain over near Palm Springs, and that was his last piloting episode. Whew!! Was I lucky or what???

Pete Kaufman purchased the paper from Max, who retired, and transferred the operation to the computer age. The old Linotype machine and the gigantic presses lay idle for a time until Max disposed of them and rented out the building as a pet shop. I particularly enjoyed visiting him in that old fashioned print shop and discussing the affairs of Lemon Grove. He was always kind to me in his publication and was of great help getting my new business started. I came to Lemon Grove in 1955 and did not know a soul. His introductions around town, the Kiwanis, Chamber and Men's Club were of immeasurable assistance in getting my name around town. He guided me into some of the organizations, the Swimming Pool Association, Boy Scouts and local politics. I would have to say that he was a major player in the incorporation elections, even though they failed.

And now, 50 years later, we have Steve Saint and company doing a very good job. Even a second edition in the week, and with a broader coverage than ever before. I would like to salute Steve, Cheryl, Joe, Greg, et al, with the hope that there will be a 100th birthday for the *Lemon Grove Review*. I certainly have enjoyed being able to make my thoughts and opinions known via this column over the years and expect to continue. So, with spoonful of ice cream held high, I will wish the best for a continuing *Lemon Grove Review*, and a special "Thank You" for past performers under that banner, to Ray Graham, Max Goodwin, Pete Kaufman and Steve Saint, a very sincere "Well Done."

Happy 50th Birthday, *Lemon Grove Review*

## Community Notes

### Birth certificate copies no longer at county health

Copies of birth certificate are now available exclusively at the county Assessor/Recorder/Clerk's offices. Until now, the certificates also were available at the county Health Department office on Rosecrans as well as the Assessor/Recorder/Clerk's offices.

The consolidation is being made to save taxpayer dollars and provide better public service.

"All birth certificates will now be available at our various offices conveniently located throughout the county," said Gregory J. Smith, San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk. "My goal is to make it easier and more convenient for the public."

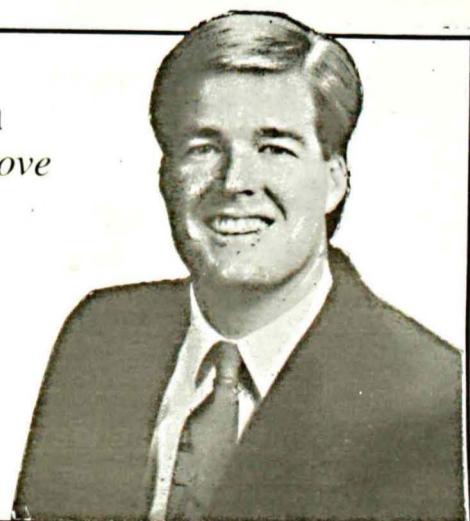
The East County office of the Assessor/Recorder/Clerk is located at 200 E. Main St., on the sixth floor of El Cajon City Hall. The phone number is 441-4799.

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# Lemon Grove Review

## One Year, Three Publishers

Continued from Page 1

to see what's going to happen next!"

After 26 editions, Payne sold the *Review*. European-born Canadian John Pletschet had moved to Lemon Grove on doctor's orders for his ailing wife, Margaret. On Feb. 24, 1949, Pletschet announced his ownership and pledged his loyalty to Payne's mission of propelling Lemon Grove into the 1950s.

The new publisher soon had a nemesis, a rival publisher in La Mesa. Pletschet moved the paper back up to broadsheet format (Payne had shifted to smaller, tabloid size after three months) and then expanded to two days a week.

Pletschet didn't name his rival, but wrote that the man was sending kids into Lemon Grove to sell subscriptions to an "out-of-town" paper under the guise of it being the *Review*. Not only that, he accused the La Mesa paper of raiding his Thursday *Review* for news to print in its Saturday edition. So, Pletschet decided to publish on Saturdays as well, printing four pages of general news on Thursday and saving the Lemon Grove community news for his own Saturday edition.

He appealed to his advertisers not only to eschew Lemon Grove sections of out-of-town papers, but give his print shop their printing business as well, lest the newspaper fold.

"These parasites [are] sucking the good lifeblood of Lemon Grove," he wrote, "giving us in return only a kick."

The unexpected fight must have taken its toll on the Pletschets. After 17 weeks, they sold the *Review* to G. Ray Graham.

Graham, a seasoned newspaperman originally from Iowa, became the *Review*'s third publisher on its 44th edition. He prided himself in having "scooped the world" by publishing the first photograph of President William McKinley's assassin in a Buffalo, N.Y., paper in 1901.

Like Pletschet before him, Graham came to Lemon Grove for the medicinal climate. He was, however, more philosophic than his predecessors. His first editorial jumped over the issues of modern commerce and aimed for the spirit.

"The service we offer is the rent we pay for the space we occupy upon this earth," he declared.

The twice-weekly experiment

ended and Graham moved the *Review* back to a six-page weekly in June, 1949. It carried its first single-copy price of a nickel. Graham ran recipes, Hollywood gossip and short stories he bought from a syndicate.

He also ran some local columns, including "Talks and Walks with Mother Nature" by Trixie Treganza, otherwise known as Antwonet, wife of the architect, Alberto. Treganza showed Graham copies of a newspaper that had been published 20 years earlier called the *Lemon Grove Empire*.

The *Review* celebrated its first birthday in September, 1949. Lemon Grove had just held its first community festival (called the "Pow Wow"), drawing some 30,000 people. The paper went to a four-page broadsheet with seven columns under a banner headline.

Graham soon announced that for three months, he would mail the *Review* free of charge to all Lemon Grove households.

The new, eight-page format would focus on the formation of a Lemon Grove fire protection district (a \$35,000 bond issue scheduled for the June election). True to an era of smoke-filled rooms and Citizen Kanes, the mail-out project would be subsidized by unnamed parties interested in promoting the passage of the bond.

The fire bond won big at the polls and the *Review* returned to its paid subscription list. Over the next six months, half the paper would consist of non-local, syndicated features.

Politics, however, would dominate the paper throughout 1950. Coverage of the Korean War increased and there was a call for news of local boys overseas. Graham's wife, Mae, would frequently touch on the war in her items-column called "Hi Neighbor."

In October, she praised the new loyalty oath being distributed for public employees, stating that anyone "refusing to sign such a plain statement of loyalty make themselves subject to suspicion of being a communist."

The Grahams endorsed Richard Nixon for the U.S. Senate and Earl Warren for governor. They opposed Proposition 6, which would have legalized gambling. They reprinted a *Los Angeles Times* editorial advocating a nuclear first strike on Russia.

Thanksgiving and Christmas were darkened by Korea. "As we face a third world war," Mae Rex Graham began one of her columns.

Her final column for 1950 noted "war clouds dim our vision of the future."

The Grahams saw the *Review* into its fourth year and then Ray was hospitalized for a critical ear infection. On March 20, 1952, he announced the sale of the *Lemon Grove Review* to former *San Diego Daily Transcript* General Manager Max Goodwin.

"The new publisher believes in Lemon Grove," Graham stated in his farewell column. "He is going in direct competition with the Chamber of Commerce to sell the community to its residents and neighbors."

Next Week: The Max Goodwin Era

## Once there were lemons...

Continued from Page 1

the mountains. In summer, we always spent a month at the beach. I have memories of Coronado Tent City when I was a baby, then a cottage at Del Mar during the World War I years.

Most of these beach houses are gone now, supplanted by large apartments. Gone, too, are my grandparent's home at Third and Upas and our big old house at Front and Walnut, which had once had a stable with a hay loft before we moved there.

"Progress is based on destruction" - but not of happy memories.

### Donald Heyser

When we moved to Lemon Grove in 1926, Broadway and Main Street were unpaved. We had a fire hydrant on our corner. Fortunately, in all the years we lived on the corner of Broadway and Olive, I cannot remember this fire hydrant having been used.

The Fire Department consisted of a volunteer crew and a Model T fire engine which was stationed at Andy Anderson's garage on the Southeast corner of North and Imperial avenues.

Someone slept upstairs over the front of Andy's garage (usually Dan Near) to answer the telephone or the fire alarm on the railroad side of Imperial. This "fire alarm" was a railroad locomotive driver tire (steel) hung in a heavy wooden frame. To sound the alarm one had only to beat the hell out of the steel tire. Nights were so quiet that the sound could be heard almost all over Lemon Grove.

I transferred from the fourth grade of the old Logan Heights Grammar School to the then new Lemon Grove Grammar School on the hill east of Imperial, at the end of Central. The old school house on the corner of Central and Main had been abandoned and was demolished a few years later.

Shortly after moving to Lemon Grove, I got a job delivering milk for W. L. K. Good, whose dairy was on the north side of North Avenue, west of Buena Vista. Milk was delivered morning and night, rain or shine, seven days a week.

I rode on the rear seat. I would grab bottles of milk, jump off the moving car, run to the porch or wherever the milk was to be delivered, set the milk down, pick up the empties, and run back to the still moving car, jump aboard and stow the empties in one of the cases.

I delivered milk for Mr. Good until his death and then for his son, Don Good, who ran the dairy with his mother for a while.

Shortly after Good's Dairy closed, all the other dairies came to me wanting lists of Good's customers. At that time, the bigger dairies were Humphrey's, Miller's and Beech's. Hamilton's Dairy had by that time become a neighborhood delivery type. I remember that Mr. Beech gave me \$5 to ride around with him and point out the houses where we had delivered milk.

During the summer, we kids would walk the railroad tracks to La Mesa to go swimming. We also used to walk the tracks to go to the Saturday matinee movies at the La Mesa Theater.

When we moved to Lemon Grove my father had already been bumped off his regular runs on the railroad and was on the

extra board. This meant he was on 24-hour call. He would be called for helper engine duty, specials such as circus and movie trains or to fill in when the regular fireman was off because of illness.

For this reason we had to have a telephone. At that time, telephones were hard to get. With the intervention of the railroad, we soon had the first telephone in the neighborhood.

One winter morning about 4 a.m., the phone rang and Dad was called to fire an engine to El Centro, leaving at six a.m. It was raining and had been raining for several days. Dad started out for the roundhouse in his 1916 Model T Ford on his usual route on Imperial Avenue.

At Encanto, the road was flooded and he couldn't get through. He came back to Lemon Grove and managed to get down Broadway to Massachusetts and over to University. They had to hold the engine for almost half an hour, but since Dad was the only fireman available, they had no choice.

Most of us had daily chores and those of us who were lucky had at least part-time jobs. In our spare time, we hiked on Murray Hill, fished in the two reservoirs, hunted rabbits, played baseball, swiped watermelons, rode our bicycles all over Lemon Grove and Spring Valley, and went swimming and fishing in Bancroft Lake.

Bancroft Lake was located east of Imperial and north of Sweetwater Road in the area which later became part of the Brookside housing development.

There were big catfish in parts of the lake. One time, when Sweetwater Lake was lowered for cleaning, a group of men and bigger boys went over one night and rescued sacks and tubs full of catfish which had been stranded in shallow pools. They released them in Bancroft Lake, where most of them survived and apparently multiplied.

In grammar school, Adan Treganza and I had become best friends. Our friendship resulted in several projects since we had similar interest. In fact, my mother complained that I spent more time at or with the



### MORE DOCTORS SMOKE CAMELS



Four chums in Kempf Street, circa 1928

Treganzas than I did at home.

Adan, or "Trig," as he was generally known, drove his father's car (sometimes with — sometimes without — his father's permission), which gave us a certain amount of mobility. Trig would pick me up at about 5 a.m. and we would go rabbit and coyote hunting in the undeveloped areas of Paradise Hills, Bonita, Sweetwater Valley, La Presa and around the radio towers.

There were three of us in Lemon Grove Grammar School's graduating class in mid-term 1932: myself, Don Osgood and Carl Johnson. We all went on to Grossmont High School, entering in mid-term.

We had our roving poker games at night. Each week, we met at someone else's house. When cash was short, these became strip poker games, sometimes with amusing results. One night the big loser had to walk down Golden Avenue to Sonka Brothers Store to retrieve his pants.

One night when the game was at Jack Zipwold's house, it became a surprise birthday party for Jack when his sister, Daisy, brought in a birthday cake and complete

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## CCT's 'West Side Story' a triumph

by Greg Eichelberger

It's difficult enough to imagine William Shakespeare, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim collaborating on *anything*, let alone a major Broadway smash. Throw Paul Russell, Vivian Valade, Carlos Mendoza and David Kievet into the mix, and you have the newest smash from the Christian Community Theater.

"West Side Story" updates the Bard's "Romeo and Juliet," (with a little help from Arthur Laurents, who penned the book) to 1950s America, substituting rival Puerto Rican and American gangs for the Montagues and Capulets.

It is an emotion-ridden, violent, fascinating musical rendition. It is also one of the best and most powerful CCT productions in several years.

True die-hard CCT followers will certainly know Russell, the award-winning director, and long-time choreographer Valade. These two really made the latest reworking of this popular tale take off. For once, the true stars are not on the stage, but toiling in the wings — literally.

Mendoza, a native of Los Angeles, helped to choreograph the complicated, breathtaking and extremely athletic dance sequences which, to be honest, are the heart and soul of this production.

Kievet, an instructor of theater arts at Grossmont College, de-

signed the simple, almost comic book-like sets and ran the lights, an exercise just as intricate as the dance routines.

"I took a very elementary approach to my work," said Mendoza, who most recently worked in Sweden with that country's national tour of "Miss Saigon." "Dealing with a lot of young people who never had any formal dance training, I first had to teach some of them the very basics. Then I had to stress that each movement was a symbol, a meaning, just as much as a line of dialog. To me that's the most important aspect of this play."

The dance scenes, especially during "Mambo," "Gee, Officer Krupke," "Rumble" and "Cool" were spectacular, bringing to mind Jerome Robbins' Oscar-winning routines in the 1961 film version (the movie won a total of 10 awards, including Best Picture).

Kievet's lighting also gave the musical a surreal loftiness, floating between stark reality and uplifting hope and fantasy.

Utilizing the heretofore untraversed areas (for CCT, at least) of high-tech rear projection, Kievet and his crew eliminated most of the blackouts (the few awkward seconds when sets are removed and added onstage during the play), making scene changes almost seamless and inconspicuous.

The fact that there are relatively few sets in the production itself made the rear projection

concept easier to achieve," Kievet said. "Using the bold colors of the costumes (designed by Terri Davis) along with the lighting of each scene helped set a mood that really comes through."

That, of course, takes nothing away from Bernstein's rich, often jazzy score and Sondheim's impressive lyrics. Translated by the actors — notably, leads Aspen Miller (Maria) and James McWhinney (Tony) — they are thrilling and spine-tingling.

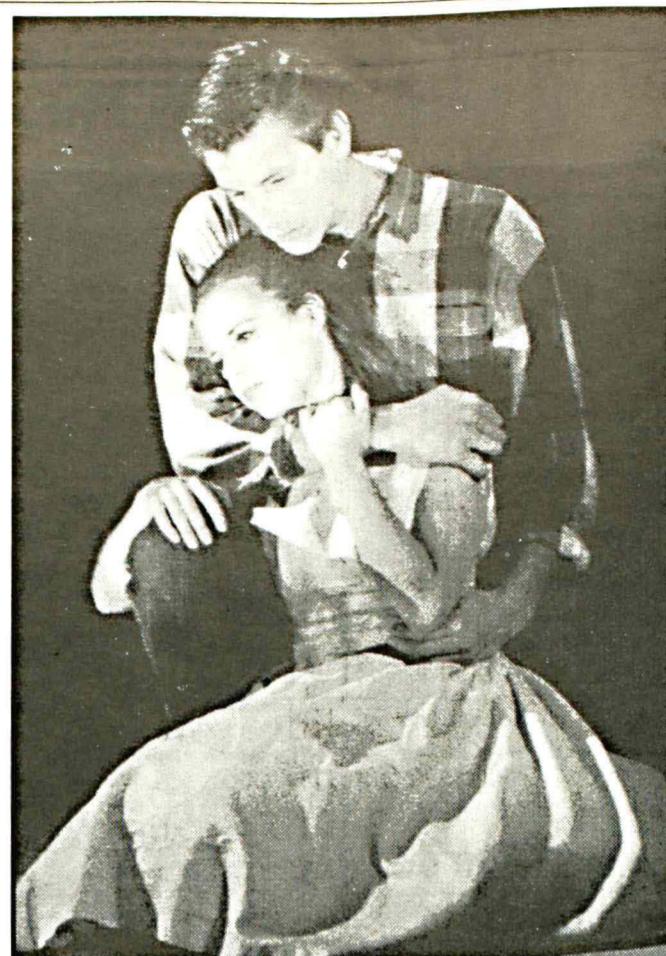
Miller, with a beautiful face and angelic voice, plays the naive Puerto Rican girl with such range and emotion one could almost forget he was *not* watching the Broadway version.

McWhinney, while not as strong in the acting department, nevertheless makes up for it with his terrific vocals, honed through his involvement with the multi-cultured reggae band, Big Mountain (which went to number six on the Billboard charts in 1994 with a remake of "Baby, I Love Your Way").

Other supporting characters, including Riff (Justin Parks), Bernardo (Mauricio Mendoza, Carlos' twin brother), Anita (Kathy Sanchez), racist cop Lt. Schrank (Eastie Award-winner Donal Pugh), Snowboy (Jon Lorenz) and tomboy Anybodys (wonderfully played by Moriah Seibold), add to overall professionalism of the production.

The tunes, with lush ballads such as "Maria," "Somewhere" and "Tonight," balancing out the more syncopated "Jet Song," "America," "Gee, Officer Krupke," and "I Feel Pretty," are expertly accompanied by a 26-piece orchestra conducted by Harvey Tellinghuisen. The percussion-laden incidental music sets the tone almost as much as the dancing and lights.

"This was a play that we did seven years ago," says Russell, who recently directed the fairy tale "Cinderella," a far cry from this gritty drama. "But this time we wanted a fresh approach. I think what we have here is a won-



James Whinney, playing Tony, offers a little comfort to Aspen Miller's Maria in CCT's production of "West Side Story," which closes Saturday.

derful adaptation of the play, with terrific performances by everyone involved, on and off-stage."

For once, a director actually *understated* his current production. "West Side Story" is, without a doubt, the smash hit of the

CCT season, and will certainly be hard to top.

The show ends Saturday in the Mount Helix amphitheater. For times and ticket information, call Lynette Fisk at 588-0206.

### Reunion Alerts

The Grossmont High School Class of 1958 will hold its 40th reunion August 27-30. Special events include a day at the

**1958**

races, golf tournament, reunion warm-up/cocktail party, family beach party, dinner dance at the Catalina Hotel, and Sunday brunch. For detailed information, call or fax Larry Durbin at 451-1958 or e-mail him at durbin@bigfoot.com.

Grossmont High School's Class of 1978 will celebrate a 20th high school reunion at 6 p.m. Aug. 15

**1978**

with dinner and dancing at the Hanalei Hotel in Mission Valley. Advance reservations are required and those interested should contact Sharon Payne at 692-8182 or by e-mail at sharon.payne@aol.com.

The El Capitan High School Class of 1988 will hold its 10-year reunion this Saturday and Sunday. There will be a dinner starting at 6 p.m. Saturday at the River Walk Golf Course in Fashion Valley, and a family picnic at noon on Sunday at North Crown Point on Mission Bay. The cost is \$65 per person and includes the picnic. For more information, contact Angie (Jenkins) Stammerjohn at 588-6664 or Erin (Sawade) Payne at 443-6852.

Are you planning your class reunion? Send us the information! Having trouble finding people? Contact us about our alumni search services!

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# Help us celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Lemon Grove Review

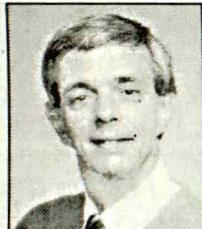
**Time: 5:30 - 7 p.m.**  
**Date: Monday, Aug. 17**  
**Place: Trident Web  
Offset**  
**6588 Federal Blvd. in**  
**Lemon Grove**  
**(the junction of Federal Blvd.  
and San Miguel Avenue)**

The party will also function as the Chamber of Commerce's August mixer. Former publisher Pete Kaufman and members of the Max Goodwin family will be guests of honor.

For more information or to RSVP, call 462-8485.

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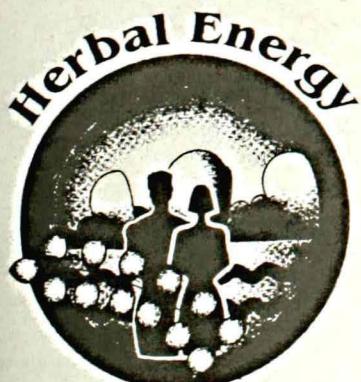
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## THE BRIGHTER VIEW



### The Great Election Coverup

by Steven Saint

Did you know that there are seven people running for governor? If you watch television, you probably didn't know that.

If you read the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, you probably figured only two people were running for governor.

If you watched the first gubernatorial debate last week, you would swear only two people are running for governor. After all, this is America! If there were seven candidates, surely they would all be a part of the debate. This isn't Russia or China, you know! This is the land of equal opportunity!

Well, the truth is there are, in fact, seven candidates for governor. They are all California residents who turned in their papers. They will all appear on the ballot. But you won't know anything about five of them if Big Business and Big Labor and Big Government and Big Media have anything to say about it — and they do.

Take last week's debate. It was sponsored by two monstrous special-interest groups, the California Manufacturer's Association and the California Labor Federation. These lobbyist groups spend millions trying to influence lawmakers.

Lawmakers and candidates listen to them with a lot more interest than they do you or I, because Big Lobbies like to fill their coffers at election time. You and I don't give money to candidates, we just vote.

It's all part of the Great Election Coverup. There *really are* seven candidates, but all the powers-that-be will work triple-time to make sure you don't know that.

So allow me be the one to tell you the whole truth. The seven candidates are, in alphabetical order: Harold H. Bloomfield (Natural Law Party),

Gray Davis (Democrat), Dan Hamburg (Green), Nathan E. Johnson (American Independent), Steve W. Kubby (Libertarian), Gloria Estela La Riva (Peace & Freedom) and Dan Lungren (Republican).

Now, why would anyone concoct such a coverup? After all, this isn't North Korea or Cuba. What possible harm would there be in letting all seven candidates for governor have equal time?

The answer is simple: people would vote for these other candidates.

If Steve Kubby, the Libertarian candidate, were allowed to speak, for instance, you know a whole bunch of conservative Republicans who are tired of government spending would vote for him instead of Dan What's-his-name.

If Dan Hamburg, for example, were allowed to debate, for sure a whole bunch of tree-hugging Democrats would kiss Gray Do-hickey good-bye and vote Green Party. In fact, enough people would vote for the little candidates to totally throw the election results off.

Here lies the rub. If you're a Big Special Interest Group investing heavily in buying politicians, you want to know the outcome of the race. You don't want to throw your money away, spending it on candidates who aren't going to win. That's why the Legislature worked it out so most districts are safely Democrat or Republican and incumbents are like Blue Chip utility stocks.

Now, if some small-party candidate making a whole lot of sense comes along and pulls five to 10 percent of the vote, you end up not knowing who's going to win. You waste money and get mad.

If you think we live in a free country, beware. Business, labor and the media are all working to keep you dumb and happy. But along comes the Internet ... to read how *all* the candidates responded to questions, sneak your browser to [www.democracy.net/CA/gen/debate/first/fulldebate/questions.html](http://www.democracy.net/CA/gen/debate/first/fulldebate/questions.html).

But hurry. Somebody somewhere's trying to pull the plug.

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# Area officials unhappy with loss of SANDAG road project funds

by Joe Naiman

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) made some effort to take funding for local roads into account in its six-year Regional Transportation Improvement Plan, but the passage of the RTIP July 24 didn't bode too well with Lemon Grove representatives.

The plan features a heavy emphasis on arterial routes rather than surface transportation, a formula which would cost several cities significant money for local projects.

Under the alternative approved by the board consisting of representatives from each of the 18 city councils in the county and one representative from the Board of Supervisors, \$67 million will be provided to regional arterial projects while \$15 million which is anticipated from federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) funding above planned figures will be used for rehabilitation of major streets in developed communities.

The other alternative would have allotted \$44.4 million for local projects with \$38 million in regional arterial increases. The Transportation Committee, on an 8-5 vote with six jurisdictions not represented, supported the alternative emphasizing the regional arterial projects.

Over the previous six years \$44.4 million of federal Surface Transportation Program/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds were allotted to the cities and county and SANDAG staff initially proposed to continue this methodology for the 1998-2004 plan. When the methodology changed to funding regional arterial projects, funding was adversely affected for many cities.

The city of San Diego stands to lose \$7.5 million over the six-year period. In East County, Lemon Grove would lose \$602,341 while La Mesa would lose \$992,641.

"If you build new freeways it doesn't do any good if you don't have good arterial roads to get to the freeways," noted Lemon Grove City Councilman Thomas

Clabby.

But the \$15 million isn't from guaranteed revenue. "This morning I started out with zero and now I'm halfway there. I would like to see this as a line item, not as a maybe at the end of the year," said Clabby.

"I think the problems of those of us who got skunked is in semantics," said La Mesa Mayor Art Madrid, the president of the SANDAG board.

Like Lemon Grove, La Mesa isn't guaranteed any money under the alternative which passed. Madrid, who notes that 70th Street in La Mesa is at "Level F", wanted to ensure that priority for that \$15 million goes to cities which hadn't been given funding under the regional arterial alternative. "There are some cities that have not received any money, and they will be given special consideration as far as I'm concerned."

But as Clabby points out, the \$15 million is up for grabs among all jurisdictions, not just the seven who aren't receiving funding. "I'm disappointed in that our total

requirements, I don't think, are met," he said. "We're still in a footrace now. There's nothing that guarantees Lemon Grove will get any funds."

Lemon Grove City Manager Doug Yount echoed that sentiment. "In my opinion it's really unfortunate that the region doesn't recognize existing infrastructure as a high enough priority. We need to balance new infrastructure, expansion of old infrastructure, and rehab of existing infrastructure. This plan is biased significantly against rehab of existing infrastructure and it's unfortunate. Funds are increasing by 37 percent and all of the cities' rehab of existing infrastructure funds are decreasing by 20 percent from the last plan on average."

"There's two no guarantees," said Lemon Grove City Council member Craig Lake, noting that the \$15 million itself wasn't guaranteed let alone that Lemon Grove would receive a share. SANDAG and its jurisdictions won't know whether the additional \$15 million will be available until the end of the year.

Because the decision to replace local funding with arterial funding was not made until June, Lemon Grove had planned for \$600,000 (\$100,000 a year over six years) to be included in its CIP program. That money was in the draft budget but not in the final budget after

city officials learned that SANDAG had other ideas for the money.

"Our number one priority is fixing our streets, and 20 percent of our road money just went," lamented Yount. "The Transportation Equity Act doesn't have much equity at this moment."

The arterial projects proposed to be funded include Second Street in El Cajon (using \$1.4 million in STP funds) and Mission Gorge Road in Santee (\$505 thousand). Other STP funds will go to State Route 125 (\$52 million in STP funds) and an interchange between routes 94 and 125 to provide a direct west-north connector (\$3.45 million).

Other projects in the proposed RTIP include State Routes 52 (\$99.8 million) and 125 (\$226.6 million for the Sweetwater extension and \$62.5 million for the Fannia extension), high-occupancy vehicle and passing lanes on State Route 94 (\$15.5 million), a four-lane toll road along Route 125 from the San Miguel Connector to State Route 905 (\$252 million), and extension of the San Diego Trolley from Rancho Mission to Grossmont Center (\$361.7 million).

The six-year transportation plan is updated on a two-year update cycle, although the plan may be modified by the board as needed. All major projects must be included in the RTIP.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 98017817

The Names of the Business:

1. DIRTY HARRY'S CAR WASH

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3. UNITED SERVICES LTD.

located at: 7716 Pacific Ave in: Lemon Grove, CA 91945 is hereby registered by the following owner:

HARRY JAMES PECKMAN  
11069 EL NOPAL  
LAKESIDE, CA 92040

This business is conducted by:  
an individual  
The transaction of business  
began on: 7-2-98

Signature of Registrant:  
HARRY J. PECKMAN

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/Court Clerk of San Diego County on JUL 09, 1998

Lemon Grove Review  
July 16, 23, 30 & Aug. 6, 1998

### NOTICE OF LIEN SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that personal property in the following units will be sold at public auction, on the 17th day of August, 1998 at or after 8:00 a.m. pursuant to the California Self-Storage Facility Act. The sale will be conducted at: U-Haul Co. of San Diego, 1805 Massachusetts Ave., Lemon Grove, CA 92045. The items to be sold are generally described as follows: clothing, furniture, and/or other household items stored by the following persons:

Unit Number and Name  
025 Dennis R. McZeal  
81 Margaret McDaniel  
109 Donna Flenord  
112 Goods Abandoned  
114 Customer Goods  
117 James Wright  
118 Paul Williams  
119 Juan Maquez  
147 Goods Abandoned  
164 Susie Holland  
200 Earne Cole  
209 Sonja Smith  
221 William Barnwell  
232 Walter Larrison  
263A Kenneth Matthews  
286 Ruth Harris  
290 Mary Buchanan  
327 Al Haslerig  
395 Lisa Walker  
412 Katherine Quick  
427 Antonietta Sanchez  
440 Ramona Starkey

CNS1625920  
Lemon Grove Review  
July 30 & Aug. 6, 1998

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#### Unit Number and Name:

1. TM 8804W Thomas Gauthier  
2. TC 4096H Earls Mechiel  
3. TC 9316G Tamara Cherry  
4. DC 1367R Isaac Troy  
5. DC 7086X Bobie J. Duncan  
Metford  
6. DC 7863R Andrea Parzych  
7. EL 1947P Patty Dinsmore  
8. EL 3289G Erika Mitchell  
9. EL 5002X Lesly Michelle Holmes  
10. EL 6120U Melodie L. Thomas  
11. EL 7600T Sandra White  
12. EL 7312X Timothy Brunson  
13. GH 3660T Michael Ash  
14. GH 7124P Jason Crabtree  
15. JH 1215W Robin Ortega  
16. JH 7382T Lotta Primo

CNS 1625927

Lemon Grove Review  
July 30 & Aug. 6, 1998

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern:

The Names of the Applicants are:

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Lemon Grove Review

August 6, 13 & 20, 1998

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Grossmont Union School District will receive bids for purchase of

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Each bid shall be submitted on a form obtained at the Purchasing Department of said District, located at: 1100 Murray Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020-5664 (mailing address: P.O. Box 1043, La Mesa, CA 91944-1043); shall be sealed and filed in said Purchasing Department on or before 10:00 a.m. on

August 21, 1998

and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time and place.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder meeting specifications. The Grossmont Union High School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to accept or reject any one or more items of a bid or to waive any irregularities or informalities in the bids or in the bidding.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for the opening of bids.

In the event of identical bids, the Governing Board may determine by lot which bid shall be accepted per Public Contract Code 20117.

Michael Harrelson, Clerk of the Governing Board

Grossmont Union High School District

Bid #2763

Lemon Grove Review

Aug. 6 & 13, 1998

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Grossmont Union High School District

Bid #2763

</div



## Once there were lemons...

with candles. It was Jack's favorite cake, German Chocolate, covered with chopped walnuts. When Jack blew out the candles he also blew most of the chopped walnuts all across the table. We all laughed our fool heads off and the game ended on a happy note.

I had purchased a 1929 Model A Ford roadster which I drove to school for two years and sold to Mr. Redlein for his daughter, Betty. I sold the car because I was leaving to go to Port Arthur College after graduating from Grossmont in 1936. My graduating class was the largest to date, 95 students.

## Amorita Treganza

Our house originally had a one-room kitchen and small bedroom, to which our dad added a bathroom and bedroom. Next, he built a large room big enough to hold five of his huge bird egg cabinets and our nice library table and the three hand-carved chairs from our home in Salt Lake City.

I recall vividly my mother weeping because one big box of priceless library books had been stolen evidently. Our Harvard Classics, the Books of Knowledge and priceless volumes of illustrated work: Dante's *Inferno*, *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, *Shakespeare Complete* and so on.

Omar Khayyam's *Ru baiyat* was quickly replaced. It held a special place in my parents' hearts: each New Year's Eve, before the fireplace in Salt Lake, they would pour a glass of wine and sit side-by-side as she

Continued from Page 3

read it to him.

Undaunted by our meager surroundings in Lemon Grove, they would sit at the big redwood table with their glasses of wine ... loving, kind, sentimental dears.

My father, Alberto, raised his voice only once that I recall, but he swore a lot. My mother, Antwonet, never raised her voice either, but we learned to watch her lips and her shoulders. When the shoulders went up and the lips pursed - duck!

The big room was where our friends and visitors gathered. The big old table had two leaves. When 20-22 people sat down to a typical holiday family dinner, the room was jam-packed from wall to wall. Always sumptuous feasts, no matter the finances.

Standard menu through all the Yuletide years was roast turkey, oyster dressing, candied sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, Brussels sprouts, cranberry jelly and a cranberry Jell-O dish, cole slaw and date pudding with cream cheese sauce.

Alberto was beginning to make a name for himself as an architect and desperately needed a place for a drafting table, his boards and other equipment. Until then, our parents had used the playhouse for a bedroom. It was decided to build an addition on the rear of the kitchen for a bedroom, and then move the playhouse across the yard and connect it to the Big Room.

This worked fine. As I look out the glass doors of my present house, I can see exactly where the playhouse was and our huge Brazilian Pepper tree would be grow-

ing right up through it.

Dad's talents were almost immediately recognized (I think Mother had something to do with that) and the Chamber of Commerce in January of 1928 voted to enter a float in the big Fourth of July parade in downtown San Diego. Alberto designed a huge lemon to be built out of some kind of plaster and he was very precise concerning the measurements of the curves, etc., so that it would replicate the real McCoy.

The V.F.W. Post 2082 co-sponsored the float with the Chamber of Commerce. The occasion was the La Fiesta de San Diego parade always held on the Fourth of July.

The huge lemon was 7 by 12 feet, so it needed an abundance of greenery around it. Everyone donated buckets of oranges, lemons, grapefruit and there were pepper boughs to take up the space.

The whole town turned out to help. Tony Sonka, Don Hutchings, George Whitley and Captain Filler all pitched in.

Who decided "who" would ride on the float is not recorded. But, really, it's sort of obvious. The *San Diego Union* reported:

"Miss Amorita Treganza, presented as Miss Lemon Grove and dressed in a striking white satin costume, made an attractive picture as she stood at the front of the float attended by her five small attendants."

Of course, the family turned out en masse. Grandma and Grandpa included. Meredith "Boo" Campbell was to meet me at the end of the parade. It disintegrated at the foot of Broadway in downtown San Diego. I was scared, nervous and very insecure but everybody found everybody and it was considered a very successful day.

The big lemon was put on the platform and moved to three different locations over the years, but always near the railroad tracks and Main and Broadway, proudly displaying its insignia: "Best Climate on Earth."

These three essays were provided by the Lemon Grove Historical Society. The organization has set about to collect and make available to the public the writings and tape-recorded oral histories of many of Lemon Grove's pioneers. For further information, call 462-6494.



Amorita Treganza,  
circa 1930



THE LEMON GROVE REVIEW

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